



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**TWO MEXICAN CITIZENS SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR
CONVICTIONS OF CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE COCAINE AND MONEY LAUNDERING**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced today, June 23, 2008, that Jose Antonion Diaz and Adolfo Sanchez Rios, both citizens of Mexico and presently in the United States illegally, were each sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to 120 months in prison for their convictions of conspiracy to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine and money laundering.

United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Beistline imposed the sentence on Diaz, age 31, and Sanchez-Rios, age 36.

According to information presented to the court by Lead Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Assistant United States Attorney Stephan A. Collins, Diaz and Sanchez Rios were part of a drug-distribution organization consisting of Mexican Nationals, who distributed upwards of 40 kilograms of cocaine in Anchorage over at least a two-year period of time. During the course of the investigation, law enforcement seized over \$500,000 in cash that represented proceeds of the conspiracy's cocaine trafficking.

Prior to imposing sentence, Judge Beistline stated that the sentences needed to reflect the seriousness of the defendants' conduct as well as provide a deterrent to others who might consider engaging in drug trafficking. Both defendants are subject to being deported to Mexico following the completion of their sentences.

Mr. Cohen commended the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and Immigration Customs Enforcement for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of the defendants.

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